RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JAN 08 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Array microphone comprising:

several individual microphones connected ~~with~~ to a signal processor ~~(11)~~ that comprises at least one digital filter for each individual microphone, in particular for voice recognition;[,]

~~wherein~~ at least one loudspeaker ~~is~~ arranged in an acquisition range of each of the individual microphones;[,]

an electronic circuit configured to apply ~~applies~~ a signal to the loudspeaker ~~(5) in such a manner that it emits~~ to emit a predetermined periodic noise signal;[,]

~~and that~~ the signal processor ~~(11)~~ configured to evaluate[s] the response signals coming from each of the microphones and/or from each of the digital filters as a response to the reception of the periodic noise signal;[,] and wherein the signal processor is configured to compare the response signals with model signals stored in the signal processor or externally.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for checking array microphones, the method comprising:

connecting several individual microphones with a signal processor ~~(11)~~ ;[,]

providing ~~wherein~~ at least one loudspeaker ~~(5) is provided~~ in the acquisition range of each of the individual microphones; ~~and~~

providing ~~connected with~~ a signal processor ~~(11)~~ connected to the at least one loudspeaker and to ~~to which~~ each microphone ~~is also connected~~;[,]

emitting ~~and that the signal processor (11) emits~~ a predetermined periodic noise signal via the loudspeaker;[,] ~~wherein the signal processor (11) evaluates~~

evaluating at least one ~~the~~ response signals ~~that subsequently come~~ from each ~~individual~~ microphone ~~(1-4)~~ and/or from each of the digital filters;[,] ~~and~~

comparing the at least one response signal ~~compares them~~ with at least one model signals stored in the signal processor ~~(11)~~ or externally, and which correspond to properly operating individual microphones ~~(1-4)~~ or properly operating filters;[,] and

PAGE 4/14 * RCVD AT 1/8/2009 7:24:12 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/10 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:8183324205 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-56

providing ~~that the signal processor (11) provides~~ a display in the form of a message and/or ~~stores~~ storing the comparison results~~deviation of the response signals from the model signals~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2~~, wherein the signal processor,~~ further comprising:

before ~~e~~mitting a predetermined periodic noise signal via the loudspeaker, verifying ~~carries out a verification of~~ the loudspeaker by applying ~~(5), where~~ the loudspeaker signal ~~is~~ directly ~~applied~~ to the AID converter ~~(9)~~ and operating the ~~said~~ loudspeaker ~~is operated~~ in parallel to the input impedance of the AID converter ~~(9), and where~~ the loudspeaker forming a voltage divider ~~(5), together~~ with the output resistance of the output amplifier that ~~(7) which~~ operates the loudspeaker; ~~(5), forms a voltage divider, and that~~

recording the signal applied to the AID converter; ~~(9) is recorded~~ and ~~evaluated~~

evaluating the signal by comparing this signal with a reference signal that originates from the measurement with a reference impedance instead of the loudspeaker impedance.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 3 further comprising:

~~characterized in that~~ verifying the ratio of the loudspeaker impedance to the input impedance of the AID converter; ~~(9) is verified~~ and;[,]

if it deviates too far from the value of 1, adding ~~is adjusted by~~ an additional pre-resistance, which is switched in front of the loudspeaker ~~(5)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method for the~~ automatically calibrating ~~calibration of~~ array microphones~~, comprising~~ having several individual microphones ~~(1-4)~~ connected to a signal processor having ~~(11) that comprises~~ at least one digital filter for each individual microphone, the method comprising:

~~whereby the signal processor (11) increases~~ increasing ~~the~~ sound power concentration of the array microphone and suppressing ~~suppresses~~ lateral sound sources by ~~means of~~ applying an appropriate algorithm ~~applied~~ to the individual microphone signals, the algorithm components including ~~whereby~~ filter coefficient sets used in the digital filters ~~and which are~~ characteristic of ~~for~~ the arrangement, type, sensitivity, and

PAGE 5/14 * RCVD AT 1/8/2009 7:24:12 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/10 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:8183324205 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-56

characteristics of the ~~used individual~~ microphones ~~(1-4);~~[;] the acoustical environment;[;] and the location of the sound sources ~~are components of the algorithm;~~[;] ~~characterized in that~~

providing at least one loudspeaker ~~(5) is provided~~ in the acquisition range of each individual microphone ~~(1-4)~~, ~~which~~ the loudspeaker ~~is~~ connected to ~~with~~ a signal processor ~~(11)~~, ~~to~~ which is connected to each ~~individual~~ microphone ~~(1-4) is also connected~~;[;] ~~in that the signal processor (11)~~

emitting ~~emits via the loudspeaker (5),~~ a predetermined periodic noise signal via the loudspeaker via the loudspeaker; ~~that the signal processor (11) evaluates~~

evaluating the response signals ~~that subsequently come~~ from each ~~individual~~ microphone ~~(1-4)~~ and/or from each digital filter; ~~and compares them~~

comparing the response signals with model signals ~~which are~~ stored in the signal processor ~~(11)~~, or externally, and which correspond to properly operating individual microphones ~~(1-4)~~ or properly operating digital filters via the loudspeaker; ~~and that the signal processor (11), as a function of the deviation of the response signals from the model signals, changes~~

changing the value of individual filter coefficients or of all the filter coefficients of the filter coefficient set as a function of the deviation of the response signals from the model signals;[;] and ~~repeats~~

repeating the test until the response signals are in the range of the model signals.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 5~~, characterized in that,~~ further comprising:

interrupting the test after a predetermined number of test repetitions have been carried out;[;] ~~the test is interrupted~~ and

displaying and/or storing an error message ~~is displayed and/or stored~~.